

## REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 20, 23 and 25 have been amended, and Claim 22 has been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Ruzicka in view of Colvin, and further in view of Perret. Fig. 12 of Ruzicka was cited as disclosing a socket with a plurality of rounded inwardly directed lobes with contact surfaces opposite a plurality of non-contact surfaces all equally spaced about a center. Colvin was cited as disclosing the equivalence between a transition that is not curved and smooth, and a transition which is curved and smooth. Perret was cited as teaching the equivalence of a drive socket formed in a fastener and in a tool.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite "a plurality of flat non-contact sections defined in the drive socket," and "the plurality of corners of the key wrench driver remaining out of contact with said plurality of flat non-contact sections." The Examiner indicated that the claims were not limited to flat non-contact surfaces. It is respectfully submitted that Ruzicka, Colvin, and Perret do not teach, disclose or suggest a plurality of rounded lobes receiving a set of alternating ones of a plurality of flat surfaces of the key wrench driver, and a plurality of flat non-contact sections defined in the drive socket, as is claimed. As is pointed out at page 9, line 24, to page 10, line 2 of the specification, by eliminating contact between the corners 44 of the hex-key driver 32 and the wall 46 of the drive socket 20, as depicted in FIGS. 3a and 3b, wear to the hex-key driver is

significantly reduced in comparison to the use of the prior art drive socket, and the inclusion of the flat surfaces 28 reduces the amount of material removed from the fastener 26 in comparison to the prior art drive socket, such as the curved outwardly directed non-contact surfaces as depicted in Fig. 12 of Ruzicka. Reducing the amount of material removed from the fastener the drive socket of the fastener of the present invention aids in maximizing the strength of the fastener. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims are novel and inventive over Ruzicka and Colvin, and that the rejection of Claims 20-25 on the grounds of obviousness from Ruzicka in view of Colvin and Perret should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LLP

By:

James W. Paul  
Reg. No. 29,967

JWP/rvw

Encls.: Return Postcard

Howard Hughes Center  
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Telephone: (310) 824-5555  
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696  
Customer No. 24201